



SCCA
Sports Car Club of America



GREAT LAKES
Division
Sports Car Club of America

BACKFIRE

A publication for, and by, the members of the Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America.

May 2007

Lets Go Racing!

INR Great Lakes Division First National at GingerMan Raceway on April 28th and 29th

VSCDA Drivers School at GingerMan Raceway on May 5th and 6th

DET/FWR Good Times National at Grattan Raceway on May 12th and 13th

WMR It's a Race, Race, Race Double Regional at Grattan Raceway on May 26th and 27th

Come out and join the fun!

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- changes made this month

To obtain a copy of the Region's corporation By-Laws, please email the editor (frameh@msu.edu) or go to the BoD page on the regional website (<http://www.wmr-scca.org/j60BoD.htm>) and download it from there.

The Backfire is a monthly publication of the Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America. The editor must receive items for publication no later than the 15th of the month to be included in the next month's edition, provided space is available. If space is not available, it will be published in the following month. As the Backfire is a publication for and by the members of WMR/SCCA, the editor is pleased to publish letters, articles, and opinions of its members, provided that: 1. They are signed. 2. They are edited for grammar and some expletives. 3. The content is not libelous and / or unsupportable. Articles may be reprinted without permission, provided credit is given to the author. Submit articles to: Dayle & Melinda Frame, 703 Pine Ridge Drive, DeWitt, MI 48820 or to frameh@msu.edu

RE Report: Wayne's World

Glad to be back and to give everyone that showed up to the last membership meeting a BIG THANK YOU. Especially all of you that helped with the folding, stamping and sending out of all the entry forms for the Memorial Day race coming up. It was really good to see so many people there and to have them become involved with what was going on. It has been some time since we had a good turn out of members, and we had a few new members show up and even a couple of guests.

I hope to see all of you at the Memorial Day Race at Grattan coming up in about four weeks. We still need a lot of help for that event in all specialties. So if you would like to do something for even just one day, come on out and we will try to find something for you to try. And if you would like to do something else that day or even on Sunday that can be worked out. There will be a number of chiefs of specialty to show you what you could do and they will try to make your day something special. So come on out and help make our first race of 2007 a big success and have fun doing it. PS – We will have a worker party after the day is over at the track and there will be plenty of food for everyone.



I also hope I have the chance to talk to many of you at the INR National race at GingerMan on the 28th and 29th of April. By the time this Backfire gets out it will be time for the VSCDA event at GingerMan also. Workers will be needed for that race and school on Friday as well. I was told that the workers will be getting fuel cards to help pay for travel to the event for each day you work. I hope to see all of you there.

A number of issues were brought up at the last meeting and there will be a couple of committees working on different projects to help bring every one up to speed on what they can do and how to do it. We need to get back to the basics of running the region by the book and to make sure that things go on without any problems in the future. This will take some time. By this Fall we will have elections and those that want to run for the different positions in WMR will be able to do so. More details of this will be put in the Backfire at a later date by the Nominating Committee.

We are working on getting things ready for the Memorial Day race, and I have something in store for all the workers that show up to work. You will find out what it is when you come to registration and sign in. That is all I can tell you for now.

I have more to say but I will put it in the next issue of the Backfire. And, by then I will see what comes up from the INR race at GingerMan.

That's it for now. All of you take care, be careful and we will see you soon.

Your RE,
Wayne I. Rogers

March General Membership Meeting Minutes

Board Members present – Phil Green, R.J. Pruitt, Duane Bailey, Bruce Beauvais, Dayle Frame

Meeting called to order by RE Phil Green at 7:50 PM

Introduction of new members- 3 region members who do not regularly attend General Membership meetings.

Membership- Melinda Frame- Region has 252 members.

Regional race report: Phil Green reported on a new format for the Memorial Day race. Saturday AM Qualifying PM Race. Sunday AM Race, grid based on Saturday fast laps and PM Race, grid based on Sunday fast laps. Phil also reported on Labor Day Race. Working with Detroit region, we are exploring an AM PDX event and a PM 3-hour enduro. The PDX expects about 15 cars in each of 3 groups.

Solo II : R.J. Pruitt reports that a Labor Day Monday event may be possible, again with Detroit Region's help, as either a Solo I type event or a slowed down course as Solo II. He also expects an event at Wings Stadium in Mid-July. Topeka will require 3 people to administer an event starting in 2007. The event chairman, the event Safety Steward, and a Waiver Chair. The Waiver Chair is a new position to insure that all have signed the SCCA Waiver.

Regional Race Director: Duane Bailey- 5 new national classes have been added for 2007. F1000, FSCCA, BP, DP and ST (Super Touring). BP and DP are to provide a home for World Challenge cars and ST is for cars that have a greater speed potential than T1. Safety items- Belts must be dated 2005 or newer, Helmets must be SA2000 or SA2005. SA1995 helmets are no longer legal. Racecar annual inspections will now be 12-month duration, changed from a calendar year.

Treasurer's Report- About \$9300 in the Treasury and printed summation of 2006 activity is available for inspection. 2006 records have been submitted to the accounting firm for tax return preparation. Treasurer noted that the region's records were prepared using Microsoft Money.

Past R.E. Bruce Beauvais- Region radios are in good condition for the 2007 season. He has prepared a schedule of General Membership meeting and scheduled them with the Day's Inn.

New Business:

Bruce Kroll, as a representative of concerned members asked for clarification of some Board actions. Reported expulsion of a region member- Duane Bailey noted that the member voluntarily changed region of record. Bruce Kroll will contact the member about items discussed.

Asked about failure of Region Timing Equipment while it was being rented to VSCDA in 2003. – Board noted that all of the software, computers and timing lights have been changes since that event. New volunteers have been trained to use the revised equipment.

Club Equipment trailer- Questions were asked about bidding/pricing before the purchase of the new trailer in 2004. Conduct of region meetings and compliance with the Club Bylaws- Discussion followed. Board reaffirms commitment to follow the bylaws at future meetings. Members request that the following items be available at general membership meetings. Agenda for current meeting, Minutes of previous meeting and a treasurer's report available for inspection.

Bruce Kroll volunteered to chair the election committee for the 2008 year. Board appointed Bruce to said position.

Members request that new members of the region receive a "Welcome Packet" upon joining the region. Contents were discussed. Packet should contain at the minimum a copy of the bylaws, the region decal as well as a welcome letter. It is requested that the bylaws be available as a download from the website. The Board notes that due to incomplete records the bylaws copy filed in Topeka does not reflect some bylaws changes and also that the Topeka file copy is the official copy.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm

April General Membership Meeting Minutes

- Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM on April 14th by RE Wayne Rogers. 28 members were in attendance.
- Minutes of the last general meeting were read aloud and approved with two corrections.
- Director-At-Large Dayle Frame reported that the entry forms for the Memorial Day double regional have been printed and are at the meeting. 1500 copies were printed, however Great Lakes Region has only 1230 drivers with competition licenses. Members were encouraged to help with folding, addressing, and stamping entry forms.
- By-laws are PDF'd and on the website along with new board changes. Some changes to the website were done Saturday afternoon just before the meeting.
- Assistant RE Steve Brown reported and commented on the board changes and getting our priorities back in order. Discussion followed. There will be an election in the coming year. Bruce Kroll will head up a nominating committee.
- Past RE Bruce Beauvais had no report.
- Treasurer's report shows \$5800 in the treasury but does not reflect postage for the entry forms or the meeting room rental.
- RE Wayne Rogers commented on wanting to see some unity in the club. Changes have been made, and he would like all members to communicate with the current board as to what they want. The Labor Day event was discussed. The question arises whether we as a club can support the Labor Day weekend, as the Detroit Grand Prix is the same weekend. Discussion followed.
- GCR books were discussed. Question on how many books the club should order.
- Wayne clarified that the proper procedures were followed for the purchase of the WMR trailer.
- Wayne wants some help from members getting the tire wall at Turn #1 (Grattan) fixed. Discussion followed.
- Solo Director R.J. Pruitt reported that there would be at least one event this year, July 28, at Wings Stadium. There may also be an event Aug. 28 at MSU, but that event is not yet finalized. The Labor Day Solo at Grattan will likely not happen this year. Discussion followed. R.J. would like to see an event in May or June.
- Wayne invited Phil Green up to the front of the meeting to present the Outstanding Member Award to Lorrie Wandell.
- More questions were asked about the by-laws. Bruce Beauvais clarified that by-laws are written but need to be reviewed. Bruce then made a motion that a committee be formed to review the bylaws. Terry F. 2nd. Discussion followed. Motion carried. Volunteers for the committee are: Bruce Beauvais, Bobbe Orr, and Bruce Kroll.
- Verne Wandell brought up recruitment issues. Workers in all categories are in short supply. Discussion followed about how to get current members more involved and get some new recruits. At this point, Wayne asked all new members in attendance to introduce themselves: Stuart and Jessica Mullen, Jed Welder, Tom Wenstrom.
- Wayne asked what Specialty Chiefs need for the coming year. Verne would like the F&C number board fixed; Rod Sickles would like some brooms at Grid.
- Landscaping changes at Gingerman were discussed.
- Wayne announced that Bobbe Orr has volunteered to take over as Treasurer.
- Bruce Beauvais reported that the next meeting would be May 19 at the same location, Days Inn in Grandville.
- Meeting adjourned 9:09 PM

Respectfully submitted, Sue Beauvais (Interim Secretary)

In Memoriam: John Truer by Bruce Beauvais

As I write this, it's been a little over a week since my friend, John Truer, was found dead on the floor of his home. I think we expect that when our time comes, at least we should be found in the garage. My father-in-law, a long time service station mechanic, went while doing a brake job. That's the way it should have been for John. Going while deep in some project.



I don't remember when I first meet him. Either at Jim Chambers' CAR Garage or working on Tom Pattison's Lotus 21. It really doesn't matter. John showed up just about everywhere. He built the Volvo 544 for Jim Chambers that is now Dick Reynolds's vintage racer. He was at home at a racetrack, an ice race, a Solo event and even at Pro Rallies. Anywhere people played with cars. He was always the one I sought out to find the real line at an ice event. If some one crashed their car, the first name called to help screw it back together was John's. He helped with at least three Runoffs winners, IMSA cars, vintage and rally cars. John rarely competed in the upper levels but did campaign a 403-powered Olds Cutlass for a couple of years in Pro Rally. He bragged that his on-again off-again SCCA membership had earned him the world's largest collection of 5-year pins.

For a long time, John seemed to hold no steady job. He did work for Don Yenke and crewed for John Greenwood. He put in some time with chassis guru, Irv Hoerr. Somehow he worked for Jim Chambers, the body shop at Kool Chevy with Don Rand, and ran his own body shop in Grand Rapids. If he wasn't working full time at a race shop, he was still building cars. The list of racers that used his talents is far too long to remember.

In the early 80's, he got the job that was as close to a dream job as a racer could get. John went to work at Oldsmobile Engineering. He was a dyno technician working to develop the Olds Quad 4 engine. All the toys a boy could want. Trips to Canada in the winter for cold testing then to Phoenix for hot weather work. Experimental 6-cylinder engines turbo and supercharged Quad 4s. He would sometimes bring home a stock-looking Olds and then you'd notice the data logging equipment. The hood would pop to show off what we weren't supposed to see. John retired from GM in 2004.

He often would tell the real secrets of racecars. How to stiffen the rubber bushings in Show-room Stock racers. The ECU chips that had the correct part number on the outside but the programming wouldn't pass emissions check. My favorite was the IMSA Toyota. IMSA required the battery to be in the stock location. John obtained a display (empty) battery case and mounted it in the correct place. The real battery was behind the rear seat bulkhead and in front of the required "firewall". The only hint was the battery cable that ran inside the rocker panel

In Memoriam: John Truer by Bruce Beauvais (cont'd)

to the front of the car.

His funeral covered 40 years of racers. Dave Finch, Phil DeRuiter, Jim Chambers, Tom Start, Dave Sootsman, Dorr Johnson, Bob Shedd, and Mark Winchester. Stories. Some about drinking and more about cops. Lots of stories of how John set someone on fire or upset some racer's wife by drinking milk straight from the bottle. The only constant in the stories was John.

I told Sue that what I felt most was lost without John. So many projects we helped each other on. His garage almost always had the right tool. Most of the time, John had the right advice. How to remove rusty bolts and when too much torque was just right or indeed too much. What to do when too much WAS too much. Lately the projects have less hands-on help from John but when you were stuck, you knew where to find the answer.

Wherever John is, I hope it has cable TV, single malt Scotch and racecars. I will really miss him.

Bruce Beauvais

Welcome to Our New Members

Please welcome our newest members to WMR family, joining in March and April:

James Steidle, John Ruhman, Leslie Figgins, Thomas and Susan Cook, Dustie Honson,
Thomas Wenstrom, Thomas Dix and Nigel Belanger

Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following WMR members who celebrated membership anniversaries in April:

One Year: Kevin Wesley and Greg Bruder

Five Years: Rob Howden

Ten Years: none

Fifteen: none

Twenty Years: Mary Jo Ours and Ron Hoekstra

Twenty Five years: none

Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America

Next Meeting:

- Date: May 19th, 2007 at 7:30PM
- Site: Days Inn
- Location: 3825 28th Street, SW / Grandville, MI 49418 / (616) 531-5263
- We'll supply the soda pop and snacks; come on out for the fun and visit with your friends

Happy Memorial Day

Don't forget to visit the WMR web site at <http://www.wmr-scca.org>

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